



News & Events

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Zanes Brings Affordable Family Fun to Spanos Theatre March 19

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA -- The Los Angeles Times calls a Dan Zanes children's concert a "dance party hootenanny for the 21st century-style performance."

Cal Poly Arts presents musical merry-makers Dan Zanes and Friends in concert at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 19 in the Spanos Theatre, with a performance blending a contemporary vitality with a traditional family sensibility that "hark(s) back to the days when sing-alongs in the parlor brought families and friends together." (L.A. Times)

New York Magazine called his show "The happiest concert vibe since Woodstock."

On the banjo and at the mike, Zanes will perform with band members Yoshi Waki (bass), Colin Brooks (drums), Barbara Brousal (guitar/vocals), and Cynthia Hopkins (accordion/vocals).

The March 19 morning Dan Zanes and Friends show is part of Cal Poly Arts' Family Event Series, providing low-cost family entertainment. The show is recommended for Pre-K through Grade 6.

Like his acclaimed all-ages recordings—from the groundbreaking family folk album "Rocket Ship Beach" to the rockin' "House Party" and his most recent release, "Parades and Panoramas"—Dan Zanes' live shows are celebrations of communal music making.

The Dan Zanes and Friends concert will feature material from Zanes' various albums, all of which were recorded in the basement studio of his Brooklyn brownstone apartment with the such notable artists sitting in, like Lou Reed, Sheryl Crow, Bob Weir, Deborah Harry, Philip Glass, Angelique Kidjo, Dar Williams, and Aimee Mann.

With the release of each of these “age-desegregated” recordings, Zanes has earned acclaim from The New York Times Magazine, Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly, People, NPR and many others.

His latest “Parades and Panoramas” has been no exception. The New Yorker calls the album “a rich collection of early Americana,” and The Philadelphia Inquirer describes it as “full of loose-limbed conviviality and homespun charm.”

On this CD, Zanes interprets 25 of the 280 traditional songs comprising American poet Carl Sandburg’s 1927 songbook, “The American Songbag,” a collection of ballads, hobo songs, spirituals, steamboat, railroad and lumberjack songs, close harmony ditties, colonial songs, and love songs.

Zanes began his professional career in the 1980’s as the band front man for The Del Fuegos, whom Rolling Stone Magazine named “Best New Band” in 1984. The group had strong success both touring and recording but when they broke up in 1991, Zanes took a different musical path, ultimately creating a sound that’s family-friendly and undeniably cool.

In addition to recording, Zanes also had “Hello Hello” published, a picture book collaboration with Donald Saaf, who has illustrated all of the Dan Zanes and Friends albums. The book includes twelve fold-out pages that reveal surprising neighborhood scenes, and a five-song CD of Zanes recordings.

And currently, Dan Zanes and Friends’ videos are being played on “Sesame Street” and “Noggin,” with a DVD planned for release this spring.

The Dan Zanes and Friends 2005 tour is sponsored by Bright Horizons Family Solutions.

Tickets for the performance are \$15 general public/\$12 students and children, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

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